

**REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-9, 11-16, and 19 have been cancelled.

Claims 10, 17, and 18 have been allowed.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:**

In the Office Action, at page 2, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Baavhammar (5,313,045) in view of Allen (5,676,867). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Claim 9 has been cancelled rendering the rejection moot.

**WITHDRAWN CLAIMS:**

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 1, claims 1-8, 11-16, and 19 were withdrawn due to an election. Applicant has now cancelled these claims, without prejudice.

**ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS:**

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraph 4, claims 10, 17, and 18 were allowed. Claims 10, 17, and 18 are now the only remaining pending claims and, therefore, this application should be in condition for allowance at this time.

**CONCLUSION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: October 17, 2003

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Pitcher", written over a horizontal line.

David M. Pitcher  
Registration No. 25,908

DMP:sbh

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501